

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-5 remain in the application.

In item 2 on pages 2-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Lacap (US Pat. No. 5,905,299) in view of Inaba (US Pat. No. 4,258,381) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In item 3 on pages 5-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 2 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Lacap and Inaba and further in view of Lim et al. (US Pat. No. 5,773,878) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Enclosed please find an unsigned Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 together with a copy of German Patent Application Publication No. DE 195 26 010 A1, which was filed on July 17, 1995 and published on January 23, 1997 as corroborating evidence. The English translation of this document is currently being prepared and will be forwarded to you upon completion. The Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 with the signatures of all of the inventors will be submitted to the Office as soon as it is received by Applicants.

The evidence shows that the invention of the instant application was conceived and reduced to practice at least as

early as **January 4, 1996**, which is before the effective date **January 5, 1996** of the cited reference Lacap. The document Lacap is therefore not available as a prior art reference for the instant application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejections on pages 2-6 of the Office action are now moot.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-5 in this Office action and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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